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Amendments to the Claims: CENTRAL FAX CENTER

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for searching and displaying a structured document including performing an element-designated full-text search to the structured document and highlighted displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the method comprising the steps of:

generating an original analyzed structured document of a structured document to be searched;

removing predefined elements from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of higher-rank elements and of the removed predefined elements to thereby generate a structured document for full-text search including the concatenated content character strings, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined elements;

acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query on the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

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adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

generating a text string of the structured document, from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

35. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 34, wherein when the conditions are met for the relative positions of occurrence of two query terms in the search query, the respective query terms constituting the search query are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats from each other.

36. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 34, wherein each of a plurality of query terms constituting the search query and the whole element including said query terms are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats.

37. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 34, wherein a highlighted display format for highlighted display is set using a method specified in said search query.

38. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 34, wherein the character string meeting the search query is displayed in highlighted text using any one of a plurality of highlight display formats for each query term.

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39. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 38, wherein the highlighted display format for each query term is determined based on information on occurrence frequency of each query term.

40. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 38, wherein the display format of highlighted display for each query term is determined based on information in weighting predetermined for each query term.

41. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying method according to claim 34, wherein

said step of generating a text string includes a step of producing the text string corresponding to the sub-elements to be displayed, from sub-elements of the analyzed structured document.

42. – 45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) A structured document searching and displaying apparatus for performing an element-designated full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted-displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, said apparatus including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit, said processor comprising:

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structured document analyzing means for generating an original analyzed structured document of a structured document to be searched;

means for removing predefined elements from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of higher-rank elements and of the removed predefined elements to thereby generate a structured document for full-text search including the concatenated content character strings, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined elements;

full-text searching and processing means for acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

means for converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

means for adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

means for generating a text string of the structured document from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

47. (previously presented) A program for implementing a structured document searching and displaying method of performing an element-designated full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted display of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, in an information processing system including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and

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an input/output unit, said method comprising steps executed by the processor, said steps comprising:

generating an original analyzed structure document of a structured document to be searched;

removing predefined elements from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of higher-rank elements and of the removed predefined elements to thereby generate a structured document for full-text search including the concatenated content character strings, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined elements;

acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

generating a text string of the structured document, from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

48. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium for storing a program, executable by a computer, for implementing a structured document searching and displaying method of performing an element-designated full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted display of information on a

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position of the characters meeting a search query in the structured document, in an information processing system including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit, said method comprising steps executed by the processor, said steps comprising:

generating an original analyzed structured document of a structured document to be searched;

removing predefined elements from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of higher-rank elements and of the removed predefined elements to thereby generate a structured document for full-text search including the concatenated content character strings, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined elements;

acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on a position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

generating a text string of the structured document, from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

49. (canceled)

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